

# *Village of Sleepy Hollow*

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Thomas Capossela  
Deputy Mayor  
(914) 366-5107

## TRUSTEES

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1874  
*More than a Legend*

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(914) 366-5106

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Village Treasurer  
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Village Attorney  
(914) 366-5107

November 2, 2011

Joseph Lubrano

1000 Westchester Avenue

White Plains, NY 10610-9800

## **Re: 11/17/2011 Community Meeting – Proposal to Discontinue North Tarrytown Branch**

On behalf of Mayor Wray and the Village Board of Trustees, I am forwarding this document to your attention regarding the possible closure of the Sleepy Hollow Post Office branch, located on Beekman Avenue, Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591.

Please note North Tarrytown is no longer the official name of our Village. The name change to Sleepy Hollow was adopted in December 1996, so I will refer to this post office location as the "Sleepy Hollow" branch.

Our first request is in regard to the community meeting scheduled for 11/17/2011 at the Tarrytown Post Office. Although we share the same zip code, 10591, we are two separate and distinct Villages. Since the community meeting addresses the closing of our Sleepy Hollow Post Office, we respectfully request the meeting be held in the community to be effected, Sleepy Hollow. We have several public spaces that could accommodate a public meeting and would be happy to assist you in scheduling something. You may contact our administrator, Anthony Giaccio at (914) 631-2060.

The second request is in regard to the questionnaire sent out to postal customers in the 10591 area, as indicated by the attached census data (attachment #1) 51% of the Sleepy Hollow population is Hispanic and speaks a language other than English in their homes. For this reason our school district sends all documents out in both Spanish and English. For this questionnaire to be a true representation of the needs of our community it needs to be distributed in Spanish, as well as English.

## **Sleepy Hollow Demographics**

As mentioned, although we share the 10591 zip code, the Villages of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow are two distinct and separate villages, with a distinct population base and differing needs. The Villages reside in two separate towns, Greenburgh and Mt Pleasant, and Sleepy Hollow originally had its own zip code, 10593, which we would argue should be reinstated.

The Village of Sleepy Hollow has a population of 9,870 residents, with a large immigrant population, 51% of Hispanic or Latino origin. Sleepy Hollow has a large lower income population with a larger percentage of its population living within the poverty level as compared to Tarrytown, 12.6% vs. 4.8%. These lower income residents live in the inner village area; they have little or no access to private transportation and rely on the post office being located within walking distance.

This population also relies more on services provided by the post office, as opposed to higher income residents within other villages. With little or no access to Internet service they rely on the mail services for communication and bill payments. Without access to banking services, they rely on the local post office for purchases of money orders. They also rely upon the availability of post office boxes for the safe and secure receipt of personal mail.

## **Commercial and Social Services**

In addition to the hardship that would be placed on our village residents, Beekman Avenue is our downtown "Main Street". On Beekman Avenue we have numerous business establishments and public services; Morse School, a public elementary school; Open Door, a low-income medical facility; a firehouse and Sleepy Hollow Village Hall, all which rely heavily on the accessibility of the post office being located on Beekman Avenue. Sleepy Hollow is also home to Kendall on Hudson, a senior assisted living facility and Phelps Memorial Hospital, who also rely on the accessibility and location of the Sleepy Hollow Post Office.

## **Handicap and Senior Accessibility**

Unlike the Tarrytown Post Office location, The Sleepy Hollow post office entrance is ground level. Many of our, and Tarrytown, senior and handicapped residents rely on our post office location because of the easy access without having to negotiate a staircase or the long, winding ramp found at the Tarrytown location. Close parking is also much more readily available at the Sleepy Hollow branch, as opposed to the Tarrytown branch.

The Sleepy Hollow Senior Organization distributed a petition protesting the closing of the post office. They attached a statement (attachment2) indicating the hardships they would encounter if forced to use the Tarrytown Post Office location including, the location and congested traffic conditions on Route 9 make driving, parking and crossing Route 9 difficult for elderly residents who use walking aids.

## **Change of Zip Code**

In 1979, the Sleepy Hollow (then North Tarrytown) zip code of 10593 was retired. Our village was placed under the same zip code as Tarrytown, 10591. At that time the United States Postal Service promised village officials that the Sleepy Hollow (North Tarrytown) Post Office branch would not be affected by this change in zip code, they assured the Village that the Post Office branch would remain open. Attached is a letter dated March 3, 1980 (attachment 3) from our then Congressman Peter Peyser. Congressman Peyser was already then addressing the issue of Sleepy Hollow being combined with Tarrytown under one zip code. The sharing of the 10591 zip code creates inefficiencies, where number and street addresses are the same in each village and for residents of Sleepy Hollow – when addresses are computer generated using the 10591 zip code.

## Future Development

Our population, according to 2010 census figures, is currently at 9,870 an increase of 7.1% from 2000 census figures and our Village continues to grow.

We currently have one new development underway, River's Edge a 44-unit apartment complex with retail and commercial space, is in the planning phase.

**General Motors is reviewing bids for development of its property, located at the end of Beekman Avenue. This site plan contains an 1177 residential unit community with 125,000 sq ft in commercial space, a 140-room hotel and a movie theater.**

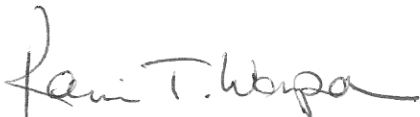
Clearly the population of Sleepy Hollow will continue to grow dramatically, rather than continue to reduce the postal services of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, first by combining the zip code and now by contemplating closing the Sleepy Hollow post office, we need to ensure adequate postal services remain in place for this growing community, to ensure the United States Postal Services can expand services and continue efficient delivery of the mail for both communities.

## Petitions

Attached you will find approximately 2,400 signatures to "Save our Sleepy Hollow Post Office". These signatures include Sleepy Hollow residents, persons employed in the village, residents who live and/or work in Tarrytown but use the Sleepy Hollow Post Office, people who have elderly parents who live in the village and others. The Sleepy Hollow Post Office is an important part of our community, a staple that defines our Main Street. All the businesses in the village took part in our petition drive, our seniors collected their own signatures, an electronic petition was placed on our Web site, which collected almost 200 signatures, and teachers and students signed and helped to collect signatures.

The village is passionate about our post office; we strongly request that you keep the Sleepy Hollow, Beekman Avenue Post Office location open and active.

Respectfully yours,



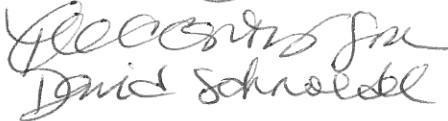
Karin T. Wompa

Village Trustee



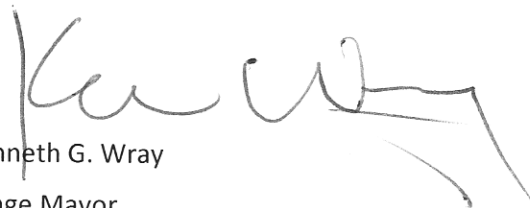
Barbara Carr

Village Trustee



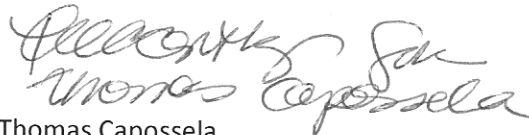
David Schroedel

Village Trustee



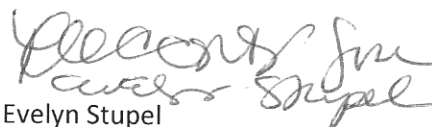
Kenneth G. Wray

Village Mayor



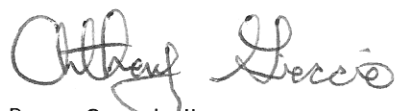
Thomas Capossela

Village Deputy Mayor



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Bruce Campbell

Village Trustee

FOR BRUCE CAMPBELL

Cc: Congresswoman Nita Lowey, 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

Leslie Johnson

Journal News